



TOWN OF LOS GATOS

FALL 2005

OUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Town of Los Gatos Guiding Principles

Small Town Service

Community Stewardship

Future Focus

Holiday Events

Holiday Tree Lighting December 2, 4 pm

Town Plaza Park

Sponsored by the Town and the Los Gatos Community Foundation, this annual event is the official kick-off to the Los Gatos holiday season. It is so much fun, Santa Claus usually makes time in his busy schedule to attend. This year, it is rumored that he will come at 6 pm, and stay one hour for photo opportunities. For more information, contact the Clerk Department at (408) 354-6834, or visit the Town's website at www.losgatosca.gov.

Holiday Parade December 3, 11 am

Downtown

This Los Gatos tradition is always held on the first Saturday in December. Bands, floats, youth groups, horses – and, of course, Santa Claus – make it a real hometown parade and holiday celebration. It is sponsored by the Town, the Los Gatos Lions Club, the Los Gatos Christmas Foundation, and the Los Gatos-Saratoga Community Education and Recreation District. For more information, contact the Recreation District at (408) 354-7800, or visit its website at www.lgsrecreation.org.

Santa in the Park

December 11 and 18, 11 am to 3 pm
December 17, 12 noon to 4 pm

Town Plaza Park

Santa Paws Day

December 4, 11 am to 3 pm

Town Plaza Park

Following his successful appearances at the Holiday Tree Lighting and the Holiday

Parade, Santa will settle down with his elves in Town Plaza Park for some one-on-one time with his littlest fans. Families are invited to visit Santa on Sunday, December 11 and 18 from 11 am to 3 pm; and on Saturday, December 17 from 12 noon to 4 pm. New this year is “Santa Paws,” an opportunity to bring your favorite four-footed friend for a picture with Santa. Santa Paws will be held on Sunday, December 4 from 11am to 3 pm. For more information, contact the Recreation District at (408) 354-7800, or visit its website at www.lgsrecreation.org.

Holiday Carriage Rides Throughout the season

Downtown

Beginning in October, the Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce will accept reservations for holiday horsedrawn carriage rides, held Thursday through Sunday evenings in December. For more information, contact the Chamber at (408) 354-9300, or visit its website at www.losgatosweb.com.

Annual Report Inside



The 2004/2005 Annual Report for the Town of Los Gatos is included in this issue of the Vista, beginning after page 4. The Annual Report highlights the Town organization's accomplishments from July 2004 through June 2005, and provides a glimpse into plans for the current fiscal year. We invite you to read on about the efforts the Town is making to keep Los Gatos such a special community, with your help.

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Prepare for Winter Storms

Being prepared is the key to weathering winter storms. In a hillside community such as Los Gatos, with several creeks that flow to San Francisco Bay, water runoff management is essential to managing the effects of winter storms. Now is the time to start preparing for winter storms, before they arrive. Following is a checklist of actions you can take now to prepare for this winter:

Roofs/Gutters

Make sure your roof, windows, rain gutters, and drainage system can handle heavy rain. Tarp or seed unplanted slopes.

Storm Drains

Keep the top of the storm drains near your home free of leaves and other

debris. Do not sweep leaves into the street, as they may clog the storm drain system; instead, use your yard waste bin to dispose of leaves.

Sand Bags

Heavy rains can cause temporary flooding when the ground is unable to absorb fast enough and storm drains are at capacity. Call the Santa Clara Valley Water District at 1-888-HEY-NOAH for more information about sand bags: how to use them and how to dispose of them. Sandbags are available to residents at several locations:

- Filled sandbags are available at Central Fire Station, 485 Sunnyoaks Avenue, Campbell
- Empty sandbags are available at the Town's Corporation Yard, 41 Miles Avenue, Los Gatos

Clean Water Program

The West Valley Clean Water Program has a new website address: www.cleancreeks.org. The program serves the communities of Los Gatos, Campbell, Monte Sereno, and Saratoga. Its goals are to reduce pollutants in storm drain discharges, comply with state and federal Clean Water Act requirements, and to maximize the effectiveness of the pollution prevention efforts of the four West Valley cities.

Visit the new website to learn about stormwater pollution: what is it, and what causes it? You can also learn how to take action yourself to prevent stormwater pollution at home and in your community.



The *Town of Los Gatos Vista* is published by the Town of Los Gatos Community Services Department. Your comments are welcome.

Send your comments to:

Town of Los Gatos Vista
Attn: Community Services Director
PO Box 949
Los Gatos, CA 95031
(408) 354-6820
community@losgatosca.gov

News Views

What's New! Email Delivery Service

Get the latest Town news as it becomes available – sign up for the What's New! Email Delivery Service. You can subscribe to receive an email when the “What's New!” section of the Town's website has been updated. To subscribe, go to the Town's website, www.losgatosca.gov, and click on “Click here to subscribe to the What's New! Email Delivery Service,” then follow the directions.

Donation Wish List

What do the following items have in common?

*Musical instruments
Earthquake emergency kits
Computers and peripherals
Canoe paddles*

They are all items that Los Gatos area social service providers can use. A “Wish List” of donations requested by local charities has been compiled by the Community Services Commission. It is posted on the Town's website; just go to www.losgatosca.gov and type "wish list" in the Search box. If you or someone you know can donate an item on the Wish List, please contact

the designated agency directly. To add an organization or wish to the list, please call the Community Services Department at (408) 354-6820 or email community@losgatosca.gov.

Community Garden

The Parks Commission is searching for the ideal location for a community garden. The Town would design and build the garden beds and irrigation system, and gardening areas would be assigned to residents on a first-come, first-served basis. If you are interested in having a community garden in your neighborhood, or would like more information, contact John Curtis, Director of Parks and Public Works, at (408) 399-5770.

Clean Air Rebates Available

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is offering Santa Clara County residents up to \$300 in rebates to replace wood burning appliances with those that use natural gas. Switching from burning wood to using gas will reduce air pollution and improve air quality in your neighborhood. The rebates available are as follows:

- \$100 to retrofit an existing fireplace by installing a new gas log set or a new insert.

- \$300 to replace an existing woodburning stove or fireplace insert (must have been manufactured in 1990 or earlier) with a new gas appliance. Your old woodstove must be scrapped at Pick Your Part yard in Milpitas.

For more information about this program, including a rebate application form, visit www.baaqmd.gov and click on “Switch to Gas!”

Home Composting Workshops

The Home Composting Education Program offers free composting classes to all residents of Santa Clara County, at locations throughout the county. These two-hour workshops teach basic composting information in a simple, lecture format. You can also learn to be a Master Composter, and then teach others how to compost. The program also offers compost bins and composting accessories for sale at discounted rates.

For more information, and for a schedule of classes, visit www.reducewaste.org and click on “Home Composting,” or call The Rotline at (408) 918-4640.

KCAT Board Reorganizes

To better serve the community, KCAT Cable Channel 15, the non-profit community access station serving Los Gatos and Monte Sereno, now has a new and larger Board of Directors. In July, the KCAT Board was expanded from 4 to 7 members, including Town residents and local school district and government representatives. Immediately following this reorganization, the Board established an objective to develop a 5-year strategic plan that addresses the

fiscal and programming needs of the station.



KCAT has been in operation since 1983, and is managed by Executive Director George Sampson. Some of the more significant programming on KCAT

includes its community bulletin board, coverage of the Los Gatos Children's Christmas Parade, the regular Police Connection show, and live bi-weekly broadcast of Town Council meetings. KCAT also is known for broadcasting the popular Classic Arts Showcase and specialized programming for seniors and other special interest groups.

For more information about KCAT, visit its website at <http://kcat.org>, or call (408) 395-KCAT.

Red Ribbon Week

Each year during the month of October, a Red Ribbon Week campaign is held to promote a safe and drug-free school and community. This unique week-long campaign allows educators, parents, community groups, businesses, students, and other concerned residents to take a public stand against the use of illegal drugs and draw positive attention to those who have chosen to live a drug-free life. This year, Red Ribbon Week will be held October 23 to 31.

You can get involved in Red Ribbon Week by doing the following:

- Ask your child's school what its Red Ribbon plans are and volunteer to help out.
- Demonstrate your commitment to a drug-free lifestyle by wearing a red ribbon all week.
- Talk to your children about living drug-free.
- Tie red ribbons around your home or business.
- Encourage employers and employees to wear and hand out red ribbons.

For more information about the Red Ribbon Week campaign, visit the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration website, www.dea.gov, and click on “DEA Resources: For Parents & Teachers.”

Holiday Parking Program

Are you ready for the upcoming holiday shopping season? The Holiday Parking Program is! This year's program will begin the day after Thanksgiving, November 25, and will continue through December 24. The program is a cooperative effort of the Town and the Los Gatos Chamber of Commerce, which enhances parking options to meet the holiday season's additional parking needs, and supports the local business community by creating a positive shopping experience for their customers. Features of the Holiday Parking Program include:

- Free valet parking on both levels of Lot 4, located between Grays Lane and Elm Street, for both customers and employees
- Unlimited free parking in the following locations:

Park Avenue lot, off West Main Street, near the Los Gatos Coffee Roasting Company

Montebello Lot, on Montebello Avenue, next to the Los Gatos Post Office

Miles Avenue Lot, on Miles Avenue east of Edelen Avenue

North Side Lot, on Highway 9 between University and Santa Cruz Avenues

South Side Lot, on South Santa Cruz Avenue, across from the Toll House Hotel

- Parking Ambassadors, who will assist you with finding parking locations and distribute holiday parking brochures

- Holiday Parking Plan marketing materials and free parking brochures, with maps of all unlimited free parking locations

For more information on holiday parking, contact the Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Department, at (408) 354-5257. For a detailed map of free parking locations in the downtown, visit the Town's website, at www.losgatosca.gov, click on “Town Services & Departments,” then choose “Parking Maps – Downtown” in the “Traffic & Parking” area.



Upcoming Capital Projects

During these fall and winter months, the planning of future capital improvement projects occurs, as most construction work takes place during the spring and summer when days are longer and weather is drier.

One project that may occur this fall, weather permitting, is the resurfacing of Los Gatos-Almaden Road and Lester Lane. Should this work be scheduled, road work notices will be posted around the work area well in advance, and nearby residents and businesses will receive mailed information notices outlining the

work schedule and traffic impacts. The repairs will be funded with a combination of Federal Transportation Program grant funds, from its Funds for Local Streets and Roads (LS&R) program, and Town General Funds. The federal funds are earmarked for improvements to collector and arterial streets only, and may not be used for improvements to residential streets.

Highway 9 Safety Improvements

Los Gatos is to be the lead agency for a Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Bicycle Improvement Project Grant, to fund roadway work on Highway 9 that will improve bicycle and pedestrian safety. Community meetings will be held later this year to solicit input on the project. Check local media for the meeting notices, or visit the Town's website, www.losgatosca.gov, and click on "What's New!" You can sign up to receive weekly emails about everything that's new on the Town's website.

For more information about any capital improvement project, call the Parks & Public Works Department at (408) 399-5770.



Traffic Safety 101

The speed limit on all Los Gatos streets is 25MPH, unless otherwise posted. There are very few streets in Town with a higher speed limit, including the major arterials and collector streets. No street in Town has a posted speed limit over 35MPH.

Studies have proven that driving five or ten miles over the speed limit does not get you to your destination any faster, but does increase the likelihood of an accident. Please slow down, and enjoy the trip, and you will arrive at your destination more safely.

Share the Road with Bicycles

Los Gatos is a popular destination for bicyclists. The small, intimate scale of our town makes bicycling attractive to residents and visitors alike. Please share the road with bicyclists by allowing them the space to ride safely. Remember, bicyclists on public roadways have all

the same rights and responsibilities as automobile drivers. The League of American Bicyclists shares the following tips for motorists sharing the road with cyclists:

- Drive cautiously: reduce speed when encountering cyclists
- Yield to cyclists: cyclists may take the entire lane when hazards, road width, or traffic speed dictate
- Be considerate: look for cyclists when opening your car door
- Pass with care: leave at least three feet of space between your car and a cyclist when passing
- Watch for children: children on bicycles are often unpredictable, so expect the unexpected and slow down

For more information about bicycle safety, visit the League of American Bicyclists website, www.bikeleague.org, and click on "Bicycle Education Center."

Bicycle Rewards Program

Help to reduce emissions by riding a bike instead of driving a vehicle on your trips around town: participate in the Bicycle Rewards Program. Once you sign up, you receive a certificate for each 10 round-trip bicycle trips exchanged for 10 vehicle round-trips. Certificates may be redeemed for VTA passes, bicycle safety equipment, and bicycle maintenance equipment. Each participant may earn a maximum of 100 round-trip rewards.

This program is funded by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District through a regional grant with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA). It is effective until grant funds are exhausted, or until March 30, 2006, whichever comes first.

How to Sign Up

To participate, you must be a Los Gatos resident or be employed by a Los Gatos business, have a valid driver's license, own a bicycle, and currently use a car as your main mode of transportation.

Call the Parks and Public Works Department at (408) 399-5776, or send an e-mail to bikelg@losgatosca.gov for more information, or to obtain an application.



Leash Law Reminder

You love your dog – so keep him safe: keep him on a leash! According to the American Kennel Club (AKC), one of the first steps in dog safety is to keep him on a leash when in public places. This simple action can help to keep your dog safe, and to keep others around him safe.

In Los Gatos, keeping your dog on a leash in public places isn't just the responsible thing to do, it's the law. Section 4.10.020 of the Los Gatos Municipal Code states, "No person owning or having control of any animal shall permit such animal to stray or run at large upon any public street or other public place, or upon any private place or property or common area of any planned development, cluster, townhouse or condominium project, without the consent of the owner or person in control thereof." This means that when you take your dog for a walk on the public sidewalk or street, or for some fun in a local park, he must be on a leash.

It is important to remember that some people are afraid of dogs running at large, and although you may believe that your dog would never injure any person or animal, it is always best to play it safe. According to the AKC, even usually loving dogs may bite out of fear, such as when they are approached by a strange person or dog.

Anyone witnessing a dog running off leash may report the violation of the municipal code by calling the San Jose Animal Care and Control Division at (408) 361-6600 between 7 am and 7 pm, or the Los Gatos/Monte Sereno Police Department non-emergency line at (408) 354-8600 after business hours. For more information about responsible dog ownership, visit the AKC website, www.akc.org.

Financial Help with Home Repairs

What

Low-interest loans are available to income-eligible homeowners, to pay for eligible home repairs, through the Town's Housing Conservation Program.

Who

The Housing Conservation Program is funded through the federal Community Development Block Grant program. The Housing Conservation Program is administered on behalf of the Town by the Santa Clara County Office of Affordable Housing.

How

For more information, or to obtain an application, contact the Santa Clara County Office of Affordable Housing at (408) 441-4266.

Since 1976, the Town has provided loans to hundreds of Los Gatos homeowners through its Housing Conservation Program. Funded through the federal Community Development Block Grant program, the Housing Conservation Program provides low-interest loans to income-eligible homeowners, for home repairs which correct housing code violations, alleviate overcrowding, minimize potential fire hazards, and improve health, safety, accessibility, and home security conditions. Program eligibility is based on federal income limits by household size.

The Housing Conservation Program offers a practical solution to lower income homeowners, particularly seniors and others on fixed incomes, faced with a list of costly home repairs. The program helps residents stay in their homes when they might otherwise be forced to sell, and contributes to the general safety and attractiveness of Los Gatos neighborhoods.

The Town's Housing Conservation Program is administered by the Santa Clara County Office of Affordable Housing. For more information or to obtain an application, please call the County at (408) 441-4266.

Digital Audio Books Available

Library cardholders now have unprecedented access, directly from their homes and offices, to free, downloadable audio books.

Patrons can choose from romance, mysteries, general fiction, bestsellers, study guides, biographies, children's books, and more, and can listen to their selections on a range of devices including PCs, PDAs, and portable audio players. Digital audio books may even be burned to CD and listened to in the car.

The portable format of these materials is great for business travelers, commuters, and students. It can be a valuable tool for those learning to read, and gives the visually impaired greater access to the

printed word. Users will not need to "return" materials to the library. When the three-week loan period is over, the file expires and the materials are automatically checked back in. To browse this new collection, as well as a selection of free, text-based eBooks, go to the library's website, <http://library.losgatosca.gov>, and click on "Digital Books." A library card is required to access these materials, and you may have to download free software onto the device on which you wish to listen to your audio book. If you have any questions about the library's digital book services, or about the downloading process, call the library at (408) 354-6896, or send an e-mail to askalibrarian@losgatosca.gov.

Town-Wide Read

If you are looking for even more reading opportunities, consider participating in the next annual Town-Wide Read, held each spring. For the 2006 Read, the Library has joined the "Silicon Valley Reads: One Book, One Community" program, which encourages reading and sponsors programs throughout Santa Clara County each year during the month of February. Once the title selected for 2006 has been announced, the Friends of the Library will make copies available at the library and at selected locations throughout Los Gatos. Check the library's website for more information as it becomes available: <http://library.losgatosca.gov>.

Los Gatos: Now and Then

A new documentary film on the history of Los Gatos, covering the years from 1860 to 1960, has been produced by Lyric Media of Los Gatos, in cooperation with the Los Gatos Library and the Museums of Los Gatos. The film, titled *Los Gatos: Now and Then*, was inspired by the 2004 publication of the pictorial history book *Images of America: Los Gatos*, and is a companion piece to that literary effort.

Hundreds of historic images gathered for "Hooked on Los Gatos," the joint local history project of the library and museums, were used in the production of the film, often contrasted with contemporary images of the same places filmed in high definition. Researching, writing, and producing the documentary film, which runs for more than an hour, took nearly a year to complete. Close-ups of personalities and places, slow zooms down streets and along storefronts, and artful dissolves through time periods are some of the techniques used to bring the history of Los Gatos to life. Several segments of rarely-seen historic Los Gatos film footage are also incorporated. A 15-minute preview of the documentary won the "Spirit of Los Gatos Award" at the 2005 Cinecats Film Festival. The full-length film was premiered at the Opera House on September 29.

The primary purpose of *Los Gatos: Now and Then* is to aid in the preservation of the valuable and sometimes irreplaceable historic archives owned by the library, the museums, and many Los Gatos organizations and families. DVDs of the film will be on sale at the Los Gatos Library, the History Museum of Los Gatos, the Art Museum of Los Gatos, Borders Books in Old Town, and other retail outlets. Ten percent of the revenue from the sale of the DVDs will be given back to "Hooked on Los Gatos," to fund future preservation efforts.

Senior Center News

The Los Gatos Senior Center is located in the Neighborhood Center, at 208 East Main Street.

It is a gathering place for local seniors. The Center is staffed by the Town's Senior Coordinator and senior volunteers eager to assist you with questions about services, programs, and activities geared to seniors. If you or someone you love is a senior, we invite you to stop by for a cup of coffee and a tour of all the Senior Center has to offer.

Following is just a sample of the activities planned for this fall and winter:

Dinner Club

Do you love good food, but you hate to go to restaurants by yourself? Join the Senior Center Dinner Club! The Dinner Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, for a no-host dinner at a local restaurant. Club members generally live alone, and enjoy the opportunity to get out and enjoy the

Senior Thanksgiving Dinner November 19, 2005 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm

On November 19, a special seniors-only Thanksgiving Dinner will be held at the Neighborhood Center, 208 East Main Street. This free event is a wonderful opportunity for seniors to get together and enjoy a meal prepared and donated by generous local merchants. No reservations are required; just come and enjoy tasty food, good conversation, live music, and a chance at great door prizes. The meal, which includes turkey with all the trimmings, will be served at noon.

company and conversation of others. For more information, call the Senior Center.

Holiday Dance

A Holiday Dance will be held this December at the Neighborhood Center. Live music will be provided by the popular local group The Nob Hill Sounds, and light holiday refreshments will be available. Admission is free, so mark your calendar now to join other lovers of good music and dancing for a holiday celebration.



Free Haircuts

Thanks to the generosity of local stylists, free haircuts are available on a bi-monthly basis, by appointment only. Call the Senior Center now to make an appointment for the next scheduled haircut days in January and March. All haircuts are done at the Neighborhood Center.

For more information on any Senior Center activity or service, call the Senior Center at (408) 354-1514. Or, visit the Town's website at www.losgatosca.gov, click on "Town Services & Departments," then choose "Senior Center" in the Community Services area.

Wednesday Movies

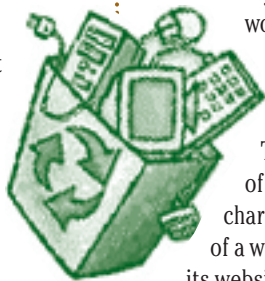
On the fourth Wednesday of each month, a top-rated movie is shown in the Neighborhood Center Lounge at 1:15 pm. Admission and snacks are free! Join other film buffs and enjoy your favorites on the huge big-screen television.



Proper Disposal of E-Waste

If you are anything like the typical family in Los Gatos, chances are you have at least two televisions. Your total number of video display screens in the house likely doubles if you throw computers into the mix. And you may already have your eye on tempting holiday deals for new plasma and LCD televisions. But before you rush out to update your electronic equipment, consider what you will do with what you have now.

It is illegal to dispose of these items in your garbage or recycling cart. State legislators have identified televisions, computer monitors, and other electronic devices as requiring special disposal, because they can contain toxic materials such as lead and mercury. These materials, when disposed of improperly, can pollute soil, air, and water. The chart to the right lists



- common household hazardous wastes, and the best way to dispose of them.
- When it is time to dispose of your old electronic equipment, you may also consider the following options:
- If your electronic items still work, find a way to reuse them. Can you give your computer to a local school or a nonprofit organization? The Center for Development of Recycling has lists of local charities that accept donations of a wide variety of materials. Visit its website, www.recyclestuff.org, and click on “Recycling Search.”
 - The Center for Development of Recycling also has a complete list of local recyclers for everything from electronics to construction debris. You can call its hotline, (800) 533-8414, or visit its website, www.recyclestuff.org.

- For the latest information on electronic waste, visit the Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste Program website, www.hhw.org. Once there, click on “Household Hazardous Waste” and scroll down to the resource list.

WASTE	DISPOSAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Computer monitors with cathode ray tubes■ Laptop computers■ Televisions with cathode ray tubes■ Flat screen televisions (LCD)■ Plasma screen televisions	Take advantage of Green Valley Disposal Company's bulky item collection service. Call Green Valley at (408) 354-2100 for an appointment to have your item picked up, for a fee.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Household batteries■ Fluorescent bulbs and tubes■ Mercury thermostats and other mercury devices	The Santa Clara County's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program takes these and many other wastes for free. Call (408) 299-7300 to schedule an appointment to drop off your items. See more information about the drop-off event scheduled for October 22, below.

Solid Waste Service Agreements

The West Valley Solid Waste Management Authority, which regulates the trash and recycling services provided to Los Gatos, has announced plans to sign an agreement with Guadalupe Rubbish Disposal Company for landfill disposal services at Guadalupe Landfill beginning January 1, 2006. Guadalupe Rubbish Disposal Company is owned by Waste Management. The current agreement between the Authority and Guadalupe expires February 28, 2007; this new agreement will allow the favorable new terms to take effect over a year sooner.

The benefits of the new agreement include a rolled-back disposal rate, which will result in an annual savings to each of the West Valley cities. The

agreement also locks in the terms for a period of 15 to 25 years, at the discretion of the Authority.

The Authority held a series of public meetings during the summer to discuss the terms of the agreement, and to solicit public input.

The Authority is also currently soliciting proposals from waste hauling companies for solid waste and recycling collection services to begin March 2007; public meetings on this topic have already been held this summer, and more will follow through the winter. To receive emailed notice of these public meetings, sign up for the “What's New!” email delivery service, at www.losgatosca.gov/new/email.html.

- Proposed Collection Services**
- Some of the services being considered for the new collection agreement include the following:
- **Automated collection.** The hauler would provide standardized collection containers to residents, for fully automated collection of trash, recyclables, and yard waste.
 - **Commingled recyclables.** All household recyclables would be collected together in one large, mechanically collected toter, rather than several small bins.
 - **Household battery recycling.** A drop-off center for disposal of household dry cell batteries would be provided.
 - **Seasonal clean-ups.** Proposers will provide options for continuing

- the current town-wide clean-ups, or for allowing two on-call pickups of extra trash each year, for each household, at no extra charge.
- **Food Waste Collection.** Proposers are being requested to submit a proposal for adding an optional food waste collection as part of the green waste collection service.
 - **E-Waste.** The hauler would provide options for drop-off of e-waste, such as computers, televisions, and similar electronic equipment.
- All Los Gatans are encouraged to attend the public meetings to be held by the Authority, to voice their opinions about the proposed collection services. Meeting notices will be posted in the *Los Gatos Weekly-Times*, and on the Town's website, www.losgatosca.gov.

Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event

Saturday, October 22
West Valley College
14000 Fruitvale Avenue, Saratoga

What is household hazardous waste? It is any chemical that is defined by the state as flammable, corrosive, toxic, biohazardous, or an oxidizer – and it is illegal to dispose of improperly. But it is easy, convenient, and free for all residents of Santa Clara County to dispose of their household hazardous waste properly, through Santa Clara County's Household Hazardous Waste Program.

The Household Hazardous Waste Program operates drop-off centers where you can dispose of your waste at no charge, throughout the year, at locations in San Jose, Sunnyvale, and San Martin. In addition, the program holds



a drop-off event annually in the West Valley area. This year's event will be held at West Valley College in Saratoga, on Saturday, October 22. You must make an appointment to drop off your items; to make an appointment, call the Household Hazardous Waste appointment line, at (408) 299-7300.

If you are unsure whether the substances in your garage are household hazardous waste or not, visit the Household Hazardous Waste Program's website, www.hhw.org, for a full list. Some common household hazardous wastes include paint, solvents, pesticides, aerosols, fluorescent lights, mercury thermometers, automotive fluids, and batteries. Consider taking an inventory of the products stored in your home – according to the County,

products stored for more than a year are seldom used, and the risk of accidental poisoning of children and pets significantly outweighs any potential benefit of saving the product for future use.

Protect your family, your pets, and the environment by disposing of your hazardous products properly!

Subscribe to the What's New! Email Delivery Service:

www.losgatosca.gov/new

Los Gatos Public Art

Los Gatos is blessed with a number of beautiful public art pieces. We'd like to share just a few of these with you, all of which are located on the Civic Center grounds.

Eolian ►

Artist Eric Ziemelis has provided his sculpture to the Town on a long-term loan. This graceful figure is made of California gray marble and powder coated steel, and is located on the Civic Center lawn.



◄ The Source

A tribute to the late George and Ruth Barati may be found near the west entrance to the Los Gatos Public Library. The redwood sculpture, created by Paul Wilson, was donated to the Town to honor the tremendous contributions of the Baratis to the West Valley area.

◄ Portals and Passages

This large fabricated steel sculpture can be found on the west end of the Civic Center lawn. The sculpture, loaned to the Town by artist Marilyn Kuksht, invites the eye to explore its angles and openings.



Street Light Outages

Did you know that there are 2,495 street lights in Los Gatos, which provide lighting to our public streets and parking lots? Some are owned by the Town, and others by PG&E. To report a street light that is out or faulty, call the Parks and Public Works Department at (408) 399-5770. You will be asked for the pole number, which is posted clearly on each street light pole.

Residential Design Guidelines

The Town is currently in the process of updating its Residential Design Guidelines. Once completed, the updated document will provide comprehensive development guidelines to assist property owners and developers through the design review process for new construction, additions, and modifications to single family residences. There are currently separate design guidelines for historic and nonhistoric residential sites; the updated Residential Design Guidelines will incorporate them into a single document.

The General Plan Committee and the Historic Preservation Committee are working with Town staff and the Town's consulting architect to develop a draft document. Residents are invited to attend General Plan and Historic Preservation Committee meetings, and provide their input for the update. For more information about the Residential Design Guidelines, or for a schedule of General Plan Committee and Historic Preservation Committee meetings, contact the Community Development Department at (408) 354-6872.

Second Chance Week is a grassroots public awareness campaign held each October to promote reuse, repair, resale, and donation opportunities throughout California. As part of its ongoing efforts to promote waste diversion and to support local nonprofit organizations, the Town is sponsoring a donation drive during Second Chance Week this year.

- adult and child sweaters and sweatshirts
- wool scarves
- jackets, coats, raincoats, and wind breakers
- men's jeans and sweatpants
- slippers and flip-flops
- adult and child undergarments and socks
- children's pajamas



- twin-size blankets and sheets
- towels
- new toiletries
- sleeping bags
- umbrellas
- kitchen and table utensils
- prescription eyeglasses
- non-prescription UV-protected sunglasses

Please, only donate the items listed, in good condition, and clean. Your donations will be given to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, EHC Lifebuilders, Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence,

Donations will be accepted at the Senior Center, located inside the Neighborhood Center, 208 East Main Street, from 9 am to noon, on October 17 through October 21.

For more information, call the Town's Recycling Coordinator, Lauren Mende Tacké, at (408) 399-5796.

U.S. adults know more about the television show “American Idol” than they do about colorectal cancer, according to a new survey by the American Cancer Society (ACS). About 38% of adults 50 and older can name a judge on the popular reality show, but only about 34% realize they are at risk of developing colon cancer, the survey found. Just 44% know that 50 is the age they should begin getting tested for the disease.

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States. More than 145,000 people are expected to develop the disease this year, and more than 56,000 will die from it. Regular screening can help find the disease early, when it is easier to treat; more than 90% of patients with early-stage disease survive 5 years after their diagnosis. Screening can even prevent the disease by finding colon growths called polyps that can then be removed before they turn into cancer.

About 70% of the over-50s surveyed said getting tested for colon cancer can make a great deal of difference in reducing their risk of the disease. Nevertheless, national statistics show that fewer than half of Americans who should be tested for colon cancer actually get tested. ACS recommends screening for all people starting at age 50. Those with a higher-than-average risk of developing colon cancer should begin testing earlier. You can find more information about colon cancer screening at the ACS website, www.cancer.org.

We'd like to hear from you. Please send us your comments, ideas, thoughts, or concerns.

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Town of Los Gatos Vista
Fall 2005



Town of Los Gatos
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POSTAL CUSTOMER

Calendar of Events

Date	Time	Event	Location	Contact
Mondays	10:30 am	Toddler Story Time	Library	(408) 354-6891
Tuesdays	10:30 am	Pre-School Story Time	Library	(408) 354-6891
Fridays	10:30 am	Mother Goose Story Time	Library	(408) 354-6891
Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays				
	3 pm to 5 pm	Books Together	Library	(408) 354-6891
October 26	1:15 pm	Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie	Neighborhood Center	(408) 354-1514
October 17 - 21	9 am to noon	Second Chance Donation Drive	Neighborhood Center	(408) 399-5796
October 22	by appointment	Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off	West Valley College	(408) 299-7300
October 23 - 31	various	Red Ribbon Week	Town-wide	(408) 354-2730 x349
November 18	6 to 8 pm	Art in the Council Chambers reception	Council Chambers	(408) 354-6820
November 19	noon to 2 pm	Senior Thanksgiving Dinner	Neighborhood Center	(408) 354-1514
November 23	1:15 pm	Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie	Neighborhood Center	(408) 354-1514
December	6:30 pm	Senior Holiday Dance	Neighborhood Center	(408) 354-1514
December 2	4 pm	Holiday Tree Lighting	Town Plaza Park	(408) 354-6834
December 3	11 am	Holiday Parade	Downtown	(408) 354-7800
December 4, 11, 18	11 am to 3 pm	Santa in the Park	Town Plaza Park	(408) 354-7800
December 17	noon to 4 pm			
December	by appointment	Holiday Carriage Rides	Downtown	(408) 354-9300
December 28	1:15 pm	Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie	Neighborhood Center	(408) 354-1514
January 25	1:15 pm	Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie	Neighborhood Center	(408) 354-1514
February 22	1:15 pm	Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie	Neighborhood Center	(408) 354-1514
March 22	1:15 pm	Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie	Neighborhood Center	(408) 354-1514
April 26	1:15 pm	Senior Wednesday Afternoon Movie	Neighborhood Center	(408) 354-1514

For a complete calendar of Town events, visit the Town website at www.losgatosca.gov, and click on "Calendar of Town Events."